



Rhode Island SEIU State Council
280 Broadway, Suite 201
Providence, RI 02903

May 4th, 2021
House Committee on Finance
State House
Providence, RI 02903
Bill- H5789

Dear House Committee on Finance

RI SEIU State Council encompasses four locals in Rhode Island, they are Local 1199NE, 32BJ, Local 580 and Local 401. We represent a collection of healthcare, DCYF, Janitorial, Family Child Care, DLT, workforce development, etc. workers.

The RI SEIU State Council would like to extend our support for Representative Cassar's Bill H5789, would increase the taxable wage base on which employees make contributions to the TDI and TCI fund, change the wage replacement formula to increase individual benefit rates for lower wage individuals, include sibling, grandchild and care recipient in the coverage for temporary caregiver benefits and increase the maximum temporary caregiver weeks.

This bill has the opportunity to:

- 1) Increase the number of weeks a worker can use from four weeks to twelve weeks.
- 2) Expand the category of who a worker can take time to care for to include: Loved ones such as grandchildren, siblings and care recipients
- 3) Expand who is eligible for TCI to include self-employed individuals
- 4) Increase the benefit rate from the current 60% of wages to 90% of wages.
- 5) Institute fines and penalties for not reinstating an employee to work if they use TCI.

For so many of our members this expansion is needed we have many different fields that passing this needed legislation would impact for the better. It is vital to have more protections for these workers and their families, to know that they will be able to take time will out of work without any negative recourse. Passing this will allow them to do what is best for their own health and their families.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nicole O'Loughlin
Executive Director
RI SEIU State Council